What is claimed is:

1. A speech recognition system comprising:

a plurality of voice pickup means for picking up uttered voices;

5   determination means for determining a speech signal suitable for speech recognition from speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means; and

speech recognition means for performing speech recognition based on said speech signal determined by said

10   determination means.

2. The speech recognition system according to claim 1, wherein that of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means whose speech level is equal to or higher than a predetermined speech level and continues

15   over a predetermined period of time is determined as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

3. The speech recognition system according to claim 1, wherein said determination means acquires an average S/N value and average voice power of each of said speech signals

20   output from said plurality of voice pickup means and determines that of said speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice power are greater than respective predetermined threshold values as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

25   4. The speech recognition system according to claim 3, wherein said determination means determines a candidate order of those speech signals whose average S/N values and

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average voice powers are greater than said respective predetermined threshold values and which are candidates for said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with said average S/N values and average voice

5   powers; and

said speech recognition means sequentially executes speech recognition on said candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower one.

5.   The speech recognition system according to any one

10   of claims 1 to 4, wherein said determination means treats those of said speech signals which are other than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition as noise signals.

6.   The speech recognition system according to any one

15   of claims 1 to 5, wherein of other speech signals than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, that speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice power become minimum is treated as a noise signal by said determination means.

20   7.   A speech recognition system comprising:

a plurality of voice pickup sections for picking up uttered voices;

a determination section for determining a speech signal suitable for speech recognition from speech signals output

25   from said plurality of voice pickup sections; and

a speech recognizer for performing speech recognition based on said speech signal determined by said determination

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section.

8. The speech recognition system according to claim 7, wherein that of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup sections whose speech level is

5 equal to or higher than a predetermined speech level and continues over a predetermined period of time is determined as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

9. The speech recognition system according to claim 7, wherein said determination section acquires an average S/N

10 value and average voice power of each of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup sections and determines that of said speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice power are greater than respective predetermined threshold values as said speech signal

15 suitable for speech recognition.

10. The speech recognition system according to claim 9, wherein said determination section determines a candidate order of those speech signals whose average S/N values and average voice powers are greater than said respective

20 predetermined threshold values and which are candidates for said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with said average S/N values and average voice powers; and

said speech recognizer sequentially executes speech

25 recognition on said candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower one.

11. The speech recognition system according to any one

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of claims 7 to 10, wherein said determination section treats those of said speech signals which are other than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition as noise signals.

5   12.   The speech recognition system according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein of other speech signals than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, that speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice power become minimum is treated as a noise signal by said

10   determination section.

       13.   A speech recognition method for a speech recognition system having a plurality of voice pickup means for picking up voices, comprising:

       a voice pickup step of picking up uttered voices using

15   said plurality of voice pickup means;

       a determination step of determining a speech signal suitable for speech recognition from speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means; and

       a speech recognition step of performing speech

20   recognition based on said speech signal determined by said determination step.

       14.   The speech recognition method according to claim 13, wherein that of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means whose speech level is equal

25   to or higher than a predetermined speech level and continues over a predetermined period of time is determined as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

15. The speech recognition method according to claim 13, wherein said determination step includes a step of acquiring an average S/N value and average voice power of each of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means and determining that of said speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice power are greater than respective predetermined threshold values as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

16. The speech recognition method according to claim 15, wherein said determination step further includes a step of determining a candidate order of those speech signals whose average S/N values and average voice powers are greater than said respective predetermined threshold values and which are candidates for said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with said average S/N values and average voice powers; and

said speech recognition step sequentially executes speech recognition on said candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower one.

17. The speech recognition method according to any one of claims 13 to 16, wherein said determination step includes a step of treating those of said speech signals which are other than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition as noise signals.

18. The speech recognition method according to any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein of other speech signals than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, that

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speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice

power become minimum is treated as a noise signal in said

determination step.